

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-15 and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 16-18, 21, 24-26, 28 and 31 to read as follows.

Claims 1-15 (cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A discharge recovering apparatus for recovering and maintaining the ink discharging performance of recording means for discharging ink, comprising:

a cap for covering the recording means;

a tube connected to said ~~cap, said tube being disposed along an arcuate~~
~~guide portion~~ cap;

a pressing roller for squeezing said tube;

a rotary member to which said pressing roller is rotatably journaled; ~~and~~

a supporting member to which said rotary member is rotatably ~~journaled,~~
journaled; and

a fixing member for fixing said tube,

wherein said tube, said pressing roller, said rotary member, ~~and~~ said supporting member and said fixing member are assembled to thereby form a pump unit, and are separable from ~~the~~ an arcuate guide portion in the form of said pump unit.

17. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus for discharging ink from recording means to a recording material to thereby effect recording, comprising:

a cap for covering the recording means;

a tube connected to said ~~cap, said tube being disposed along an arcuate~~
~~guide portion~~ cap;

a pressing roller for squeezing said tube,

a rotary member to which said pressing roller is rotatably journaled; ~~and~~

a supporting member to which said rotary member is rotatably ~~journaled,~~
journaled; and

a fixing member for fixing said tube,

wherein said tube, said pressing roller, said rotary member, ~~and~~ said
supporting member and said fixing member are assembled to thereby form a pump unit,
and are separable from ~~the~~ an arcuate guide portion in the form of said pump unit.

18. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said supporting member is removably mounted on a guide member forming ~~said the~~ the guide portion, and at least one of ~~said the~~ the guide member and said supporting member is formed of a material having slidability.

19. (Previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said pump unit comprises a pump gear for transmitting a rotational force to said rotary member.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim ~~20~~ 17, wherein said fixing member is formed integrally with said supporting member.

22. (Previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said pump unit comprises a joint portion for connecting said tube to an external route.

23. (Previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said joint portion is formed integrally with said supporting member.

24. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said pressing roller is held to permit movement in ~~the~~ a radial direction thereof relative to said rotary member, said pressing roller is radially outwardly moved by the rotation of said rotary member in one direction to thereby assume a tube pressing state, and said pressing roller is radially inwardly moved by the rotation of said rotary member in the other direction to thereby release the tube pressing state.

25. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 24, further comprising a biasing member, wherein on a movement route of said

pressing roller, said biasing member biases, upon contact with said pressing roller, said pressing roller in a direction opposite to a movement direction by said rotary member, and said biasing member is retractable during ~~the~~ a passage of said pressing roller.

26. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ relative distances between said pressing roller and the guide portion are made common and a tube differing in inner diameter is mounted to thereby form a tube pump differing in output characteristics.

27. (Previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the guide member of said tube pump differing in output characteristics is formed of a common part.

28. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 26, further comprising a biasing member for biasing said pressing roller toward said tube, and wherein ~~the~~ a biasing force of said biasing member in the tube pump differing in output characteristics is made the same.

29. (Previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein in the tube pump differing in output characteristics, all of said rotary member and parts incorporated in said rotary member are made common.

30. (Previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein the tube pump differing in output characteristics differs only in the inner diameter of said tube and is common in the other parts.

31. (Currently amended) An ink jet recording apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the tube differing in inner diameter has ~~the~~ a same thickness.